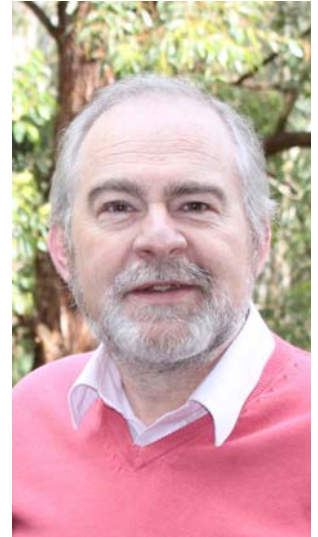


The Diocese of Canterbury

General Synod

Elections to the House of Clergy 2010

Election Address by Philip Down Archdeacon of Maidstone



**In the garden
at Pluckley.**

Summary:

- Can provide an Archdeacon's perspective.
- Involved in delivering change for the Diocese.
- Some experience in the ways of General Synod after a first term.
- Prayerful, pastoral, practical and theological approach.
- Inclusive and gently liberal.
- Member of 'Affirming Catholicism'.
- Interested in larger canvas of issues beyond the debates on Homosexuality and Women.
- Looking for an approach which properly values and acknowledges complexity rather than simplistic or quick fixes.

I believe Archdeacons have a distinctive and valuable contribution to make to the proceedings of the General Synod. I am again offering myself to the electorate in Canterbury Diocese for a second term as a Proctor.

As a member of the Episcopal Staff Team of the Diocese I am involved directly in implementing many of the changes now occurring in the Church of England. I have experience both in promoting the interests of clergy and serving them pastorally. I appreciate the need for change in order to develop good practice in the stewardship of personnel and resources. I have a strongly pastoral heart matched by a prayerful but thinking approach to the life of the Church. I would continue to bring a high degree of constructive realism to many of the issues facing the Church by virtue of my experience as an Archdeacon (even though I do not wear black gloves or ride in taxis).

The Church of England continues to face major change during the next few years. My colleagues will need to know I remain passionately committed to an inclusive Church and an inclusive ministry. This means that I continue to look for ways to involve fully in the life of the Church people of homosexual as well as heterosexual orientation, women as well as men, lay Christians as well as the ordained. I am equally passionate about the unity of the Church and will therefore feel the pain of those issues where 'unity' and 'inclusion' are necessarily to be held in tension. Working with many others I would try to develop and build inclusion whilst seeking to minimise the cost to unity.

I am also concerned that the church has recently drawn too narrow a focus on just two issues of sexual politics: homosexuality and the matter of women in the Episcopate. This preoccupation looks and feels scandalous to many in the observing world and we should be paying much greater attention to the other crises of our time: the environment, building and maintaining a good society, ecumenical and interfaith relations tangled up with the politics of terrorism and the growing challenges of globalism.

I would hope also to bring to Synod a commitment to the liturgical and spiritual aspects of the church's life. I would do this as a Christian who daily struggles to make sense of Christian faith and theology in the context of the UK and Europe (although inevitably tinged with the foibles of a modern Australian).

I commonly distrust simplistic, formulaic or even absolute answers to the questions facing us as Christ's church. I would want to work with others in the General Synod, with due prayerfulness and patient grace-full theological thought, seeking to be responsive to the Word of God and to discover the Church's proper response to the complex issues of our day. I would value the opportunity to serve the Church through the General Synod. I ask you to vote for me and then to support the whole Synod with your prayers and continued consideration.

I hope I can receive your support in the forthcoming election.

Archdeacon Philip

Please remember to vote
AND

**Please vote
for me .**